

What Parents Should Know: Children & COVID-19 Vaccines

Are children eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, children ages five and older can get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. There is currently no approved vaccine for children four years and younger.

Which COVID-19 vaccines are available for adolescents?

The FDA authorized the use of the Pfizer vaccine for adolescents after clinical trials were conducted demonstrating its safety and effectiveness. Other COVID-19 vaccines may become available for adolescents once more studies are completed.

How much does the vaccine cost?

There are no out-of-pocket costs to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. No insurance is required. Some vaccine providers may ask if you have insurance so they can recover the administration costs from the insurer.

Is the Pfizer vaccine safe for children?

The Pfizer vaccine has undergone the necessary and required trials through the FDA to ensure its safety and effectiveness in persons ages five and older.

The CDC and its partners are monitoring reports of heart muscle inflammation in adolescents and young adults after vaccination. More information will be released as it becomes available. The CDC continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for individuals five years of age and older.

How many shots will my child need with the Pfizer vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, three weeks apart for children 5 and older. Your child is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving the second dose. The Pfizer vaccine dose for kids ages 5 to 11 is one-third the adult vaccine dose.

Does my child need approval to get a vaccine?

In most cases, parental approval is required for persons under the age of 18, with a few exceptions. Teens who



are emancipated or legally separated from parents do not need parental approval.

What kind of side effects may my child experience?

Pfizer reported adolescents experienced side effects similar to young adults, including pain at the injection site, fever, chills and fatigue (tiredness), particularly after the second dose.

How does the Pfizer vaccine work?

The Pfizer vaccine uses a new and well-researched technology called mRNA. mRNA stands for messenger ribonucleic acid. The mRNA in the vaccines teaches the body's cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. This response builds up the immune system and provides protection should your child be exposed to coronavirus.

Where can I find more information about the vaccine trials conducted on children?

Additional information about the Pfizer vaccine, including study details, is located on the CDC website, at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/adolescents.html>.

Where can I get my child vaccinated?

COVID-19 vaccines are currently available from multiple providers. Sedgwick County Health Department offers walk-in clinics throughout Sedgwick County, with no appointment needed. To find a vaccine provider near you, use the Find My Vaccine tool on our website, www.sedgwickcounty.org/covid-19/vaccine/.

My child has a medical condition. How can I get more information about receiving vaccine?

Contact your medical provider if you have questions about how the vaccine may interact with your child's medical condition or medications.

For the latest information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in Sedgwick County, please visit our website at www.sedgwickcounty.org/covid-19/vaccine.

